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24 August 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: The Lippincott Gazetteer

I. THE PROBLEM

1. At the request of the Chairman, Joint Map and Photo Committee, CIA participated in an interdepartmental meeting held in New York City at the Columbia University Press on 13 August 1948. The purpose of this meeting was to consider a proposal by Columbia University for governmental financial aid in compiling and publishing a second edition of the Lippincott Gazetteer, the publication rights of which have been purchased by the Columbia University Press.

2. The new Columbia Lippincott Gazetteer is intended to be in the nature of a geographic dictionary and will include certain economic data in addition to "place name and location" data. The Gazetteer is designed to be a single volume document containing approximately 200,000 entries in all countries including the United States. We were advised that there will be approximately 8,000 entries on the USSR. We were further advised that C U P is so far committed to the present concept of this work that no changes in format, criteria of selection, scope or coverage can be made. The total costs for preparing this work for publication are estimated to be \$250,000.00. The projected publication date is January 1950. There exists no comparable up-to-date work of this nature at the present time. The first edition of the Gazetteer was published in 1903.

3. C U P is seeking the sum of \$50,000.00 to bring this project to completion. This money is required to meet increased costs over the original estimates of compiling, printing and binding.

II. CONCLUSIONS

1. Some of the source data used and a few of the manuscript entries were examined. Superficial evaluation of these materials

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leads to the conclusion that little if any new information would be made available to CIA through publication of the Gazetteer.

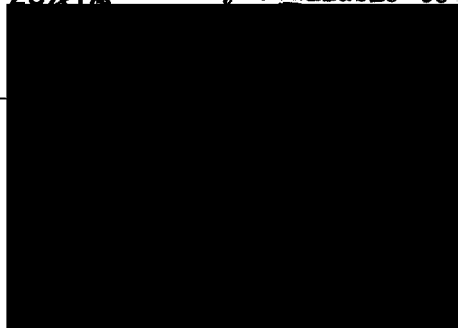
2. It is admitted that such a work would have possible utility to some segments of the Federal Government. Such a work, however, does not begin to meet projected requirements of CIA or the IAC agencies envisaged in the NIS program. Furthermore, if CIA has an additional \$50,000.00 available for such purposes, the sum would be far better utilized in increasing our Gazetteer coverage of the USSR and other foreign areas. Funds have been provided and facilities now exist whereby these requirements are being met in accordance with the NIS program.

3. As a result of the conference, C U P is submitting its proposal in writing to the Department of the Army for formal consideration.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. It is recommended that CIA not support the C U P effort to obtain funds for the above stated purposes.

2. Since the C U P apparently has many direct contacts with foreign countries and its staff intimated that unique information on names, administrative divisions and economic information is contained in its files, it is further recommended that the EE/USSR and the B/Ma Branches send representatives to C U P to investigate present source material being utilized in the compilation of the USSR section of the Gazetteer with a view towards determining sources ~~5X1A~~ presently available to CIA.



Distribution:

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REMARKS: I requested this joint memorandum with the view you might wish to tip off DCI in the matter - Working forward to a formal proposal by Columbia Univ.